

That is why he was beloved in Nebraska and never lost an election, serving two terms as Governor and then three terms as Senator. That is why he was popular even as the father of the Democratic Party in an overwhelmingly Republican State. And that is why his friendship and kindness meant the world to me.

Jim and I were both members of the class of 1978, and we—and our wives—quickly became close friends. We served together on the Armed Services Committee; in fact, we sat next to each other for 18 years. We had honest, substantive debates about our defense policy, and I will always cherish the memories of that time. His only interest was the security and prosperity of our country and his beloved Nebraska.

Jim worked for a strong national defense. He supported responsible budget policies. And he was ahead of his time in warning against terrorism and arguing for a Department of Homeland Security. For so many of us, he was a source of wise counsel and trusted advice. With Jim, you could always be certain he was telling you what he thought was right, and he usually was right.

We will miss him terribly, but we are fortunate to have had him for so long. My thoughts and prayers, and those of my wife Barbara, are with his loving wife Pat and his entire family.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

TYLER L. CREAMEAN, DUSTIN C. FISHER, AND
PHILLIP N. SAYLES

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I rise with a heavy heart to honor the lives of three very special Arkansans; Army Specialists Phillip N. Sayles, Tyler L. Creamean, and Dustin C. Fisher. They will be remembered by their family and friends as loving souls who lived their lives with energy and passion; they will be remembered by their Nation as dedicated soldiers who bravely answered their Nation's call to service and gave their lives in the defense of our freedom.

Those who knew Phillip Sayles often spoke of his quiet demeanor and the way he showed determination whenever there was a task at hand, focusing on getting the job done and never complaining. He called the central Arkansas town of Jacksonville home, and attended nearby North Pulaski High School. In school, he was active in the ROTC program, where his leadership skills and discipline quickly distinguished him with the qualities of a soldier. Spc. Sayles transferred to Cabot High School for his senior year and, upon his graduation in 1997, enlisted in the U.S. Army.

Despite being born in Texas, Tyler Creamean also spent most of his childhood in Jacksonville. Known for his energy and his light-hearted nature, he had a personality that allowed him to make friends with nearly everyone he encountered. He was also known for playing pranks and causing mischief

but did not have a mean bone in his body. Instead, he had a gift for lightening dark moods and bringing a quick smile to the faces of those around him when they needed it most. Spc. Creamean attended Jacksonville High School but left after his sophomore year to join the Youth ChalleNGE Program, a 22-week program sponsored by the Arkansas National Guard to help young adults develop as leaders, earn their G.E.D. and acquire the skills necessary to succeed in life. It was an opportunity for Spc. Creamean to learn more about himself and what he wanted in life, and he did just that. He went on to earn the program's spirit award and shortly after his graduation, he joined the Army in April of 2003.

Spc. Sayles and Spc. Creamean were both a part of the Army's 25th Infantry Division and spent time at Fort Lewis in Washington prior to their service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. While in Iraq, Spc. Creamean served with the 73rd Engineer Company and conducted more than 600 patrols, sweeping roads for explosive devices and clearing the way so that fellow soldiers as well as Iraqi civilians could pass through safely. In late February, he returned home on leave and on February 24, his 21st birthday, he married the love of his life, his girlfriend KaMisha. KaMisha, also a soldier, was stationed at Fort Still, OK, and had begun preparations for her deployment to Iraq. As a result, Spc. Creamean now set his sights on reenlistment, so that his new wife would not have to serve in Iraq without him nearby.

Dustin Fisher was born in the Northwest Arkansas town of Fort Smith. He spent his childhood as many children do; hanging out with his friends, playing sports, and making life difficult for his sister. He was a fun-loving person who had a gift for story-telling and was always quick with a sarcastic remark to lighten a conversation. If looking for him, he could often be found cruising around town in his pink pickup truck, a gift from his father that he used to draw attention and meet girls.

Upon his graduation from Van Buren High School in 2001, Spc. Fisher tried a year of college but found it was not for him. It became apparent that he wanted to make something of himself, so he followed his father and brother into military service. Shortly after joining the U.S. Army, he was sent down to Fort Stewart, GA. At Fort Stewart, he not only seemed to find his niche in life, but he also met his soul mate, a young woman named Alicia. Her presence made him truly happy and two were married just days before his deployment to Iraq in late January.

While serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Spc. Fisher's mission often entailed escorting dignitaries across the war-torn country. Although it placed him in ever-present danger, he downplayed its significance to comfort his family and friends. Although he had originally thought of re-enlisting, he now considered returning home to be

with Alicia and potentially become a firefighter. He had last been home for Christmas, and was looking forward to returning for a 2-week leave in late June.

Despite the many differences between these three Arkansans, each was a true soldier in every way. Not only did they share a love for their country, but they embodied a selfless courage in the name of freedom that continually put them in harm's way. One week in late May would ensure their fates would forever be intertwined. Early on May 22, while routinely sweeping a stretch of the main highway south of Mosul, Spc. Creamean's military vehicle hit a roadside bomb that killed him and a fellow soldier. On May 24, while escorting a high-ranking Iraqi official, Spc. Fisher was one of three soldiers killed when a car bomb exploded near their convoy. On May 28, Spc. Sayles was checking for weapons in three cars that had been pulled over by American troops in Mosul. An improvised explosive device was detonated nearby, killing him and wounding 21 others; including 13 American troops and 8 Iraqi civilians.

Words cannot adequately express the sorrow felt in the hearts of the families and loved ones of Phillip Sayles, Tyler Creamean, and Dustin Fisher, but I pray they can find solace in the courageous way they lived their lives. Although they may no longer be with us, their spirit will forever live on in the examples they set and the many lives they touched. My thoughts and prayers go out to their families, their friends, and to all those who knew and loved them.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about S. 147 the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2005. My colleague, the junior Senator from Arizona, for whom I have great respect, has inserted several documents written by outside sources into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD over the past months, criticizing my legislation as a racebased measure. I vehemently disagree with his characterization of my bill as race-based.

We will be debating S. 147 on the floor of the Senate in a few weeks and, at that time, we will have a full opportunity to talk about the legislation, which extends the Federal policy of selfgovernance and self-determination to Native Hawaiians, Hawaii's indigenous peoples, thereby establishing parity in Federal policy toward American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

S. 147 is widely supported in Hawaii. Governor Linda Lingle has testified twice in 4 years in support of this bill. The Hawaii State Legislature has passed resolutions in support of Federal recognition for Native Hawaiians in 2000, 2001, and 2005. Resolutions in support have also been passed by the